



# Better use of biomass

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The biological part of circular economy is called bioeconomy and includes the production, consumption and recycling of renewable materials. It is the Danish Government's target to generate more value from renewable materials and to reduce the amount of food waste in all parts of the food value chain.

Bioeconomy is a central part of agriculture and the food industry. But bioeconomy is also part of citizens' daily lives when for example carrot peels are recycled. Furthermore, the bioeconomy is part of the industry's production when fossil plastics are replaced by bio-based plastic. Through biorefining, biomass can be converted into biological components that can be rebuilt and then utilised for several purposes. The output of the biorefining process includes sugar, lignin, methane, fat and protein, which can be included in the production of for example medicine, food, feed, materials and energy.

A large part of our food ends up as waste. Avoiding food waste saves money and reduces the environmental and climate impact of consumption.

In order to ensure more value from renewable raw materials and to reduce the amount of food waste in all parts of the food value chain, the Danish Government will, among other things:

- Provide professional assistance to reduce food waste in retail
- Lower the limit values for heavy metals and physical impurities in food and garden waste used as fertiliser
- Create a financial incentive to recycle phosphorus from sewage sludge
- Analyse and implement measures to ensure a reduction of minimum 20 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions from treatment of garden waste

## **Facts about the bioeconomy**

- In 2018, biomass constituted approximately 21 percent of the Danish material consumption (DMC).
- Denmark produces approximately 1,200,000 tonnes food waste from primary production, processing and manufacturing, retail, restaurants and households annually.
- The amount of food waste from households has decreased by 14,000 tonnes from 2011 to 2017. That is an average decrease in food waste of 8 percent per household per week.
- In 2018, 213 kg biowaste (i.e. food and garden waste) was recycled per capita in Denmark.
- The share of recycling for phosphorus from wastewater and wastewater sludge in 2018 was 76 per cent.